DECISION MEMORANDUM
POLAND
USE of ISO 11290-1 TO TEST FOR *Listeria monocytogenes*

Reviewers:
Gerald Zirnstein, IES, Office of International Affairs
Faiz Agarib, IES, Office of International Affairs
Evelyne Mbandi, Microbiology Division, Office of Public Health Science

EQUIVALENCE REQUEST:

Poland has submitted a request for an equivalence determination for use of ISO method 11290-1 as microbiological testing method for the detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) in ready-to-eat (RTE) meat products.

BACKGROUND:

The findings of routine audits indicated that Poland's official laboratories conducting microbiological testing for *Lm* were utilizing analysis methods which differed from those used by FSIS official laboratories. On October 8, 2009, Poland submitted equivalence request for the use of ISO method 11290-1 to test for the presence of *Lm* in RTE meat products.

FSIS FOOD SAFETY MEASURE:

FSIS maintains a policy of zero tolerance for the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) in ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products. Methods approved by FSIS for the testing of RTE meat and poultry products for *Lm* include an enrichment step and enable the detection of less than one colony-forming unit per gram in a 25-g sample.

OBJECTIVE OF THE FOOD SAFETY MEASURE:

The objective for using the required FSIS method of analysis is to ensure that a scientifically validated method of analysis is used to accurately detect the amount of *Lm* in the sample.

EQUIVALENCE EVALUATION:

Criteria:

The criteria used for determining whether an alternative testing method for RTE products is equivalent are as follows:

- The method is a scientifically validated method of analysis for *Listeria monocytogenes* approved or adopted by an internationally recognized organization.

The method has been scientifically validated and has been adopted by ISO, an internationally recognized organization.

- The method ensures that the opportunity for detection and identification of *Listeria monocytogenes* is equal to or greater than the current FSIS method.

The sample test portion (25 grams) ensures that the opportunity for detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* is equal to or better than the FSIS method.

RECOMMENDATION:

FSIS has determined that Poland's request for the use of ISO 11290-1 as an alternative method for the detection of *Lm* in RTE meat products meets the established criteria. Therefore, Poland's equivalence request should be granted.

APPROVAL:

12.10.2009
Date

Andreas Keller
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12/10/2009
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